

**NPDES Permit No. NCG010000 Construction Stormwater Guidance**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**When should NCDOT begin using the new combined Stormwater Inspection - Land Disturbing Self-Inspection Report (combined form)?**

The effective date of the new combined form is October 1, 2009.

**If a portion of a NCDOT project has been permanently stabilized to 70% aerial coverage, can monitoring of SDOs in this portion be discontinued?**

No. Monitoring must continue until the entire project has been permanently stabilized to meet the 70% areal coverage standard. The only exceptions to this would be 1) Secondary road projects where small sections of the project are graded, stabilized, and paved before moving to the next section of the project. 2) TIP projects with multiple sections (e.g., R-XXXXA, B, and C) where construction is begun on each section at different times. In this scenario, the project limits would be the limits of the individual sections, A, B, and C. Therefore, if section A is graded, drained, and permanently stabilized to meet the 70% coverage standard, no further NCG01 monitoring would be required on the A section regardless of the construction stage of sections B and C.

**When projects are completed and if vegetation has not established to 70% at final, who will be responsible for record keeping? Who should sign the combined form during those times?**

It is recommended that the Resident Engineer's office follow the project until permanent vegetation is adequately established. A signature by a NCDOT Certified Level II supervisor is satisfactory.

**Are the contractors responsible for completing the combined form?**

Yes. The E&SC/SW provisions in the contract require the contractor to complete the combined form.

**Do measures needing repair need to be noted on the combined form if they were repaired immediately?**

Yes. Any measure needing repair must be documented on the combined form.

**How much off-site sediment warrants a call to the agencies?**

If the amount of sediment that left the site or entered waters of the State is less than what would fit in a 5-gallon bucket, then NCDOT does not have to contact NCDWQ within 24 hours of discovery. However, the sediment loss must be documented on the combined form along with any corrective actions taken to clean up the sediment. If the amount of sediment that left the site or entered waters of the State is equal to or greater than the amount that would fit in a 5-gallon bucket, then NCDOT must contact NCDWQ within 24 hours of discovery and document the sediment loss and corrective actions on the combined form. For any loss of pollutants equal to or greater than the amount that would fit in a 5-gallon bucket to

waters of the State or protected buffer areas, NCDOT must contact NCDWQ for consultation regarding clean-up techniques.

**How can you tell the difference between 2, 3, & 4 when deciding the clarity and suspended solids rating?**

Guidance regarding the qualitative monitoring can be found in the training guide or at [http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/documents/SWU-242AQualitative\\_Monitoring\\_Guide2008.pdf](http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/documents/SWU-242AQualitative_Monitoring_Guide2008.pdf).

Qualitative rating for clarity and suspended solids are often very similar, especially on construction sites where sediment is the main source of pollutants. To help with making a judgment call on clarity and suspended solids, a sample can be taken in a clear plastic or glass container and held up to light. This technique will help the inspector determine whether the lack of clarity is a result of suspended solids or some other source. If the lack of clarity is from suspended solids, rate the clarity and suspended solids equally on the combined form. For further assistance, contact your local NCDWQ representative.

**Will someone be training the contractor? Resident Offices see a problem with contractor understanding this combined form and being able to complete it with any accuracy.**

All contractors were given the opportunity to attend webinar training sessions conducted by Raleigh REU. The resident offices will provide re-emphasis on the details of the combined form. For further assistance, contact your local NCDWQ representative.

**Why are we being trained on this when contractor is responsible for it? Also, why am I forced to sign it agreeing it is accurate and completed in accordance with NCG01 permit when I didn't perform the inspection.**

Although a contractor may be conducting the work on an NCDOT construction site, NCDOT is issued the permit and is ultimately responsible for the activities conducted on the construction site. By signing the form, you verify that the contractor has fulfilled the inspection requirements completely.

**Is the signature block on the combined form to be signed at the end of the week or after the routine weekly inspection?**

The combined form should be signed at the end of the week.

**How does the NCDOT inspector know a contractor actually acknowledged and met the "Urgent" repair time frame if it is not signed off on every day it's conducted?**

The form should be initialed by the NCDOT inspector on the correction date so that the contractor knows you are aware of it. Inspectors will have to insure they are meeting the Urgent corrective action timeframes as they are currently by initialing the correction date. The NCDOT inspector should sign off on the sheet at the end of the week if everything is correct and completed.

**How far does the outlet of an erosion control device have to be from waters of State to be considered an SDO?**

No specific distance from the outlet of an erosion control device to waters of the State has been prescribed. To determine what qualifies as an SDO, the inspector should consider the distance, the topography, and the vegetative conditions between the outlet and waters of the State. For example, an outlet that is 30' from waters of the State on a flat slope with heavy vegetation may not be considered an SDO whereas an outlet located 30' from waters of the State on a steep grade with sparse vegetation may be considered an SDO. The inspector should also consider the potential volume of the discharge from the outlet. High potential discharge volumes may make a discharge outlet an SDO that would not qualify as an SDO under low potential discharge volume conditions. Certain conditions may not qualify a discharge outlet to be an SDO, but the discharge outlet may have a high potential to impact waters of the State or other resources. Discharge outlets upstream and in close proximity to sensitive resources such as High Quality Waters, Water Supply watersheds, etc. or sensitive property owners may necessitate regular inspections similar to those required for an SDO. For further assistance in determining whether a discharge outlet is an SDO, contact your local NCDWQ representative.

**How many years must the NPDES records be kept?**

The NCG01 monitoring records must be kept 5 years.

**Do the check marks for phase of grading transfer cumulatively so that eventually it is filled up or is the current phase grading checked for that weeks report?**

The phases of grading do not transfer week to week. Check only the current phase(s) of grading for the project on the weekly report.

**Do we have to list each SDO each time we perform an inspection, or can we just list the ones that need corrective actions?**

Must list each SDO during every inspection regardless of its maintenance needs.

**Is the form required on existing projects or can I wait and start it on my next project?**

The new form is required (effective 10/1/09) on all projects that have 1 acre or more of disturbed area.

**On my curb and gutter project all of my catch basins enter a pipe system that discharges directly into a jurisdictional body of water. Are all of the Type C inlet protections considered SDO's?**

YES. Unless the pipe system empties into a grass swale or other treatment area somewhere off the project site, each device would be considered a SDO.

**How often is the rainfall data collected? When are the email alerts sent out?**

The data collection periods are 1am, 7am, 1pm, and 7pm. It's every six hours.

The e-mail alerts are generated from the 24-hours of data preceding and ending at each of those four collection times.

The 24-hour amount reported on the My Projects page is the same amount used to generate the emails.

If it rains 0.2 at 9am and 0.3 at 2pm, you will see an alert after 7pm for 0.5 inches. This is because the rain fell within the 24-hour period preceding 7pm.

If it rains continuously for over a day, the last alert will not be the cumulative amount for the event. It would instead be the amount during the preceding 24 hours of the most recent collection period.

To put it another way, the sums are from a rolling window of time that always ends at 1am, 7am, 1pm, or 7pm. The My Projects page and e-mails both say over what time period the rainfall amounts are from.

**If I have 2 or more sites designated to receive rainfall totals, do I just print out the weekly rainfall totals for the highest rainfall amounts or do I need to print out weekly totals for each site?**

You should print out the weekly rainfall log for each site on your project.

**If I have a project that is 3 miles long or under, then do I only need one MPE site?**

When you are selecting the MPE site on the map, the shading of the map changes when you cross the grid boundaries. You will need one MPE site per grid.

**Do I need to keep a copy of all the email alerts with the NPDES records?**

No, it is not required. The weekly rainfall amounts off your My Projects page on the MPE site is your record to be kept with the NPDES form.

**If it rains continuously for 3 or 4 days is that considered one rainfall event and do you need to do an inspection once the rainfall stops, or do an inspection after every 24 hr alert, regardless if it is still raining or not.**

Once you have triggered the 0.5" within 24 hrs, you need to inspect within the next 24 hrs.

Example

Mon. 0.5"; inspect on Tues

Tues. 1.2"; inspect on Wed

Wed. 0.7"; inspect on Thurs

Thur. 0.4"

Fri. 0.4"

S/S none

M-W none; seven day inspection due on Thurs